

THE PARKPARTNER

FALL 2025



7th Member
Church added

 **PARK
CHRISTIAN**
SCHOOL

 **1ST EVER
TRACK & FIELD
STATE CHAMPION**

**A YEAR OF
FAITHFULNESS
& HUMILITY**



WHAT I SEE...

WELCOME BACK TO PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL A YEAR OF FAITHFULNESS AND HUMILITY

Chris Nellermoe, President

As we begin this new school year, I am once again reminded of the incredible blessing and sacred responsibility it is to be a part of Park Christian School. It is a blessing to serve in a place that is **unquestionably Christ-centered**—a place committed to honoring our core values:

- Partnering with Christian parents
- Remaining academically excellent
- Developing Christ-like character and influence

I carry a deep burden to remain faithful in all I do as I'm entrusted with the privilege to lead at PCS. God has given each of us the opportunity to love, to lead, and to consistently model what it means to follow Jesus. What a joy it is to welcome back over **630 students**—our fifth consecutive year of record enrollment—and to lock arms with our dedicated teachers, staff, and with you, our valued partners in ministry!

Together, let us commit this year to bringing glory to God, to remain faithful to the truth of His Word, and to pursue excellence in all we do. What a blessing it is to have Jesus as our foundation, guiding our every step forward!

TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION (TfT): Deepening Our Faithfulness

One intentional way we are growing in our faithfulness this year is through the continued implementation of **Teaching for Transformation (TfT)**. This framework helps us anchor every part of our teaching and learning in God's story and purpose. Through TfT, we are developing learning targets that guide our curriculum and daily practices—helping us build a strong spiritual foundation in each student.

Each staff member is developing a Deep Hope and a Storyline as part of our commitment.

My Deep Hope (what I really want for our students, staff, parents and community) is that all of our relationships would be:

First with Jesus, grounded in His love and His story, impacting all of who we are, all of our relationships, and all for His glory.

And my Storyline (brief phrase that connects my Deep Hope to God's ultimate story of redemption) is:

Intentional Relationships,
based on 1 John 4:19 — *"We love because He first loved us."*

I am excited to see how TfT will shape our school this year and in the years to come—helping our students grow in their identity, purpose, and faith.

OUR THEME FOR THE YEAR: HUMILITY

This year's spiritual theme, chosen by our senior class, is Humility, rooted in Philippians 2:3:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves."

This powerful verse calls us to live differently—to serve selflessly, love sacrificially, and lead with Christ-like humility. We are eager to live this out together in community as we continue to grow in faith and service.

It is an honor to serve alongside you in this incredible ministry.

Let us commit this year to being faithful, to loving well, and to placing Christ at the center of all we do.

To God be the glory in all things.

Faithfully in Christ,

Chris Nellermoe



JOSH DAHL

Elementary Principal

My name is Josh Dahl, and this year I have been blessed with the opportunity to step into the role of Elementary Principal. For my family and me, Park Christian is far more than just a school, it is a community, a ministry, and a place where faith and learning come together to impact our lives in meaningful ways.

Our family's connection to Park Christian began with our oldest daughter, Layne, who has now been a student here for five years. Over that time, we have seen her grow not only in knowledge, but also in her faith and character. Our middle daughter, Avery, and our youngest daughter, Elsie, joined her two years ago, and we have been grateful to see them thrive in this Christ-centered environment.

As parents, my wife, Jennie, and I treasure the fact that our children are receiving both an excellent academic foundation and a daily reminder of who they are in Christ. Jennie, who is deeply rooted in her own faith, has shared how meaningful it is to watch our children experience both rigorous academics and a strong focus on Jesus as Lord and Savior. Knowing that our daughters are surrounded by teachers and staff who love the Lord gives us

deep peace and confidence as we raise them.

From my perspective as both a father and an administrator, Park Christian is unique. The teachers and families here don't just talk about community, they live it. Since stepping into my new role, I have been welcomed with open arms by parents, staff, and students alike.

It is clear to me that Park Christian School thrives because of the culture of love, encouragement, and genuine care, all grounded in God's Word.

One of the greatest blessings for me personally has been how this community

continuously inspires me in my own spiritual growth. Each day, I am reminded of God's faithfulness as I watch Him work through the staff, parents, and students of Park Christian School.

For the Dahl family, Park Christian is not just where we work and learn, it's where we belong. It is a place where our faith is strengthened, our children are nurtured, and God's love is shown in countless ways.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." — Proverbs 22:6



The Josh & Jennie Dahl family

2025-26 THEME VERSE

Mollie Rogness, PCS Senior



As we head into the 2025-2026 school year, the Park Christian School senior class chose the theme of Humility. Our theme verse for the year is from Philippians 2:3, which says, ***"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves."***

We spent a lot of time going back and forth on a few different themes, but in the end, we decided on Humility. As a class we felt that humility was a virtue that we really hope to demonstrate this year. Humility means putting others before yourself. It means being free from pride and arrogance over one's accomplishments. It means to think about yourself less. And in the end, it is knowing that on our own we can do nothing. This is exactly why we need Christ each and every day.

In our class discussions, we realized that humility produces many things. Out of humility flows joy, service, friendships, boldness, and compassion. All of these make up what a great school, a welcoming student body, and a beautiful Christian community should exemplify.

As a senior class, our prayer over this school is that humility would be shown every day, in every situation. We pray that through the fruits of humility would come opportunities to share the gospel along with the hope and joy we have in the promise of Jesus Christ. After all, it was Jesus who showed us ultimate humility, ***"being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant..."*** (Phil 2:6-7)



THIS PLACE IS HOME FOR ME Kristen Reinowski, PCS Teacher

Park Christian School is home to me. I began attending PCS as a fifth grader after my family moved to the FM area. As a student, I was challenged academically, grew in my relationships with others, but most importantly, I fell in love with Jesus. Park Christian School is a place where I was provided opportunities to deepen my walk with Jesus. Things like Junior High retreats, morning prayer meetings, worship nights, chapels, and service projects, alongside what I was learning at church and home, gave me a desire to know and pursue Jesus. I can remember one morning prayer meeting we met at school at 6:00am and walked through the halls, praying over each classroom and locker. We then met together to write out prayers, put them in tubes, and buried them at the four corners of the property, literally surrounding our building in prayer. This was a powerful thing to experience as a 17 year old, and to do it with my classmates and friends made it even more meaningful.

I also felt so loved and valued by my

teachers. We had a family emergency five days before graduation, and my government teacher stopped class to pray for me. I can remember meeting with a teacher in 8th grade to pray for a friend in my class who was struggling. My teachers knew me, and they always had time to talk with me to show they cared for me. I saw a love for Jesus modeled through them as they went about their daily lives. Spiritual growth didn't always come from the big events but also through watching people who loved Jesus live it out on a daily basis.

What a blessing it was to return to Park Christian four years after graduating to teach 2nd grade! I gained a whole new perspective of what God was doing and the privilege it is to be a part of this place. My first year teaching, I had a student that was struggling with anxiety over a coming tornado drill. He couldn't focus on what we were doing, so I had him pull out his Bible and read Psalm 34:4, "I sought the Lord and he answered me, he delivered me from all my fears." We got through the drill and

moved on to reading. As we opened our books to the story for the day, Psalm 34:4 was printed at the top of the page. He noticed it right away, and we both were in awe of God's sovereignty over that moment. That student came back to me during his high school years and told me that was his life verse. I have watched God answer the prayers of my students as we have prayed together for the Lord to provide funds for expansion projects and more students to experience the powerful educational experience Park has to offer. Some of my students started

praying for God to provide for our school during their recess time, and it was so fun for them to see God answer as we have been able to add on to the building and grow to over 600 students!

Now, I have the joy of being a Park Christian parent to a 3rd grader, 2nd grader, and kindergartener with two more children at home waiting their turn to be Falcons! It has been so fun to see my husband experience Park as a parent from worship at Back to School night, hearing the teachers pray over our kids at conferences, and listening to our kids share about all they are learning in their school day. We get to see the impact Park is having on our kids as they grow. My daughter was very concerned about some family members who don't know Jesus and had her class praying every day that she would have boldness to share Jesus with them. My son was singing every word to a worship song I hadn't heard before on the radio. I asked him how he knew it, and he said his teacher played it in his classroom during worktime. To see their hearts grow for prayer and worship moves me to tears. We are so thankful for how the values we are teaching them at home are being reinforced at school and that they are surrounded by more people who will point them to Jesus and love them well.

It's really hard to sum up the impact Park Christian School has had on my life. I am so grateful for the vision that began 45 years ago and for all the lives that have been touched through the giving and sacrifice of so many people.

This place is home for me.



*The Paul & Kristen Reinowski Family
Photographers, Abby Anderson & Hope Tompkins*

SEVENTH MEMBER CHURCH ADDED

We are thrilled to welcome Harvest Valley as a PCS Member Church! Their heart for why they wanted to be a part of our school is so beautiful:

This decision to pursue a gospel partnership with Park Christian is motivated by two of our values:

1. Make Disciples: Making disciples is a life-long journey that requires various voices that are all pointing to the same thing—become like Christ. We would like to formally join our disciple-making efforts with yours.

Harvest Valley is grateful for your unwavering commitment to the Bible and God's unfailing truth. Our church wants you to know that those convictions are deeply appreciated.

2. Building Healthy Families: Families are the building block of our society. We believe we share the value of helping families steward the next generation. Your vision of partnering with families is in alignment with our efforts. As the church, we do not see ourselves as the sole agency but a pillar within that family's life that helps bring strength and stability.

Park Christian School is pleased to partner in ministry with seven member churches.

MEMBER CHURCHES

Bethel Church 1981

Calvary Church at Village Green 2014

Harvest Valley Church 2025

Metropolitan Baptist 1993

Northview Church 1981

Salem Evangelical Free 1991

Triumph Lutheran Brethren 1996

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WITH PCS *Glenn Urlacher, PCS Bus Driver*

Park Christian School has been a part of our family's life for the past 25 years. We came back to the Minnesota/ North Dakota area after spending two years north of Seattle, Washington. Our girls, Kristen and Sarah, were in 3rd and 5th grade. We toured the school and became acquainted with the staff and administration. **We fell in love with the mission, vision and the God-centered, loving family environment that we saw.** Our girls soon were welcomed by friends and teachers that cared for them more than just as students. They were given a great education that was centered around Christ. They developed friends that have been lifelong. It was also our privilege to see Kristen have the opportunity to go back to teach 2nd grade at PCS for 10 years and now return after being away from teaching for 4 years. I have also been blessed to be able to help by driving bus for the school. I thoroughly enjoy it and love to be around kids as they grow into young adults. **We truly are eternally blessed to have had and continue to be a part of PCS for the past 25 years.** We are so grateful for the dedication of

the founders, past and present teachers, and administration at PCS. We are also grateful for the countless supporters of the school who make it possible for future generations like our grandkids to be able to get the experience and Christ-based education that our family had.

We will continue to support and pray for

PCS. We will also encourage those we come in contact with to explore Christian education at Park Christian School. They will not regret the investment they make in their kids as they grow into adults and navigate the world we now live in.

We Love PCS!



*The Glenn & Karen Urlacher family
Maureen Cochran Photography*

“WHY” PCS *Blake & Megan Ellefson, PCS Parents*

We are the Ellefson family: Blake, Megan, Dane, and Rylan. We are entering our 5th year of being a Park family.

We are often asked our “why” for Park Christian School, and I feel our “why” started back at Kindergarten Exploration Night for our oldest son Dane, and the answers from that night remain to be our answers as we continue to attend Park Christian School. At the time, we did not know for sure if we were going to send our children to PCS. We did not grow up in the area, so we had no history with the school. But our why and reason to say yes were made much easier once we met the kindergarten teachers for the first time.

The joy, excitement, love, and encouragement they exuded while at that time wearing face shields,

because it was the beginning of 2021, was something I can still remember and feel. They talked through the important stuff we parents needed to know about sending our sweet children to be with them at this school. But the more they spoke, the more it became very apparent to me that **they truly are living the mission at Park Christian School to be a Christ-centered academic community, equipping students to think Biblically, live wisely, and serve faithfully.** And this was only in the kindergarten classroom! We now have two children at PCS, Dane in 4th grade and Rylan in 2nd grade, and this passion to teach, equip, and serve has continued every year we meet a new teacher. The teachers and staff who faithfully serve, love, and truly care for all our children is why we continue to say yes to Park Christian School.

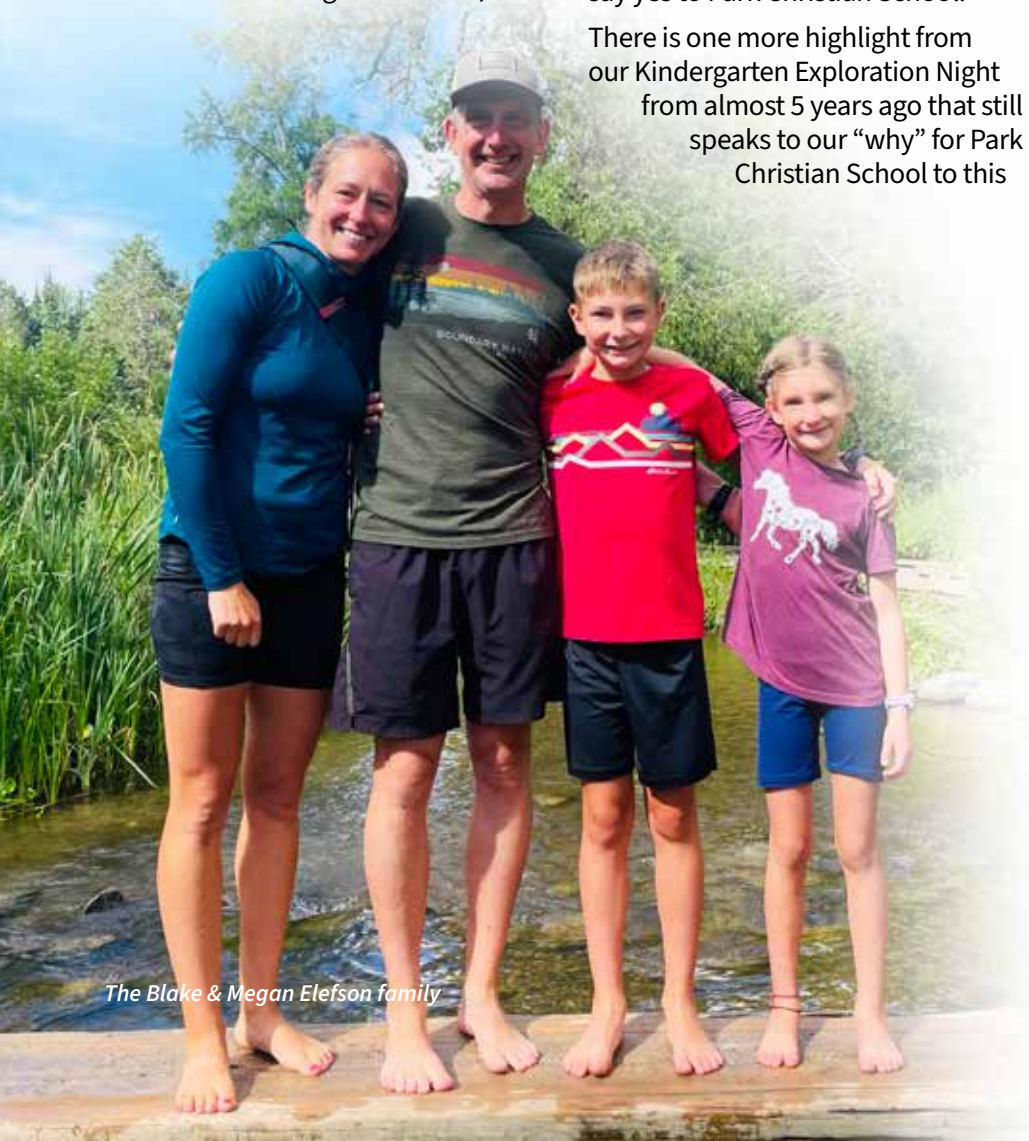
There is one more highlight from our Kindergarten Exploration Night from almost 5 years ago that still speaks to our “why” for Park Christian School to this

day. Mrs. Fisher, one of the amazing kindergarten teachers, spoke about the community you become a part of as you enter this school. She said it with tears in her eyes because she felt it and lived it with her own family.

We get the privilege to walk through these same doors for 13 years of our child’s education, and maybe for some families that may only be a couple years of their education. But this community is strong and cares deeply about you because our God is strong and cares deeply about you. He wants believers brought together. As a family, we have made Christ-centered friendships through Park Christian School. I can look back on this single night and see God’s faithfulness and plan on display in our lives as He wove it all together. I can see how He has worked it all together for His good and for the good of His church and this school.

As I reflect on this year’s theme of humility and the verse Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves,” it makes me think of all those who serve at our school and the amazing community we have grown to know. Many of these teachers and staff are sacrificing money and time with their own families to teach our children how great our God is. And doing it with humility and showing how to live that out to our children.

*With deep love and gratitude,
I say thank you to all
the PCS teachers, staff,
volunteers, and families for
living out the mission to be
a Christ-centered academic
community, equipping
students to think Biblically,
live wisely, and
serve faithfully.*



The Blake & Megan Ellefson family

Hello to my fellow Falcon family! My name is Josh Boyko, and I'm a 2021 alum of Park Christian School. I attended PCS from Pre-K all the way to senior year of high school, and even in the moments while attending PCS had a gratefulness for the environment I was brought up in. It truly is a privilege to be surrounded by like-minded, positive influences like teachers and peers growing up, all while doing it in a Christ-centered environment. There is no substitute for being in the Bible every day, and PCS enables students to do that from a young age.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Christ-centered education is essential to providing children the ability to create a foundation. In Matthew 7, Jesus speaks of the two men that built their houses on the rock vs. the sand. One who lacks a foundation in worldview, in quality friendships, in relationship with God will not stand the storms of life the way someone that's built their house on the rock can. The storms fall on both houses in the parable as they do in each person's life, but one is prepared to withstand it and is not holding up the house himself. It's the Rock.

However, you can surround someone with positive influences, Christ-centered academics, church and all the right things, but you still must make your faith and relationship with God your own. You can lead a horse to water but cannot make him drink. I encourage current students reading this to evaluate why you are at Park Christian on weekdays and church on weekends. Am I going because my parents have put me in this position, or am I going because I see the value in it and want to embrace it? I say this because you're living in the most influential years of your life right now; and young adult life, whether in college or elsewhere, will test your values and worldview. The storms will come in various forms. Difficult

decisions, evaluating friendships and relationships, temptations, death of family even. As grim as those worldly trials sound, we never bear them alone because Jesus states in John 16:33,

"I have told you these things that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!"

In my personal experience, I attended a secular university where most students were not fellow believers, so it was my job to search for the community and the people that would build me up, not tear me down. Chi Alpha ministries played a large role in that when I was a student and still does with the friendships that have lasted beyond my college years.

Those that know me know that I eat, sleep, and breathe sports. In junior high I was provided with the opportunity to broadcast the Falcons basketball games and fell in love with it, calling Falcons sports for 5 years before graduating and earning a state-level scholarship for best high-school broadcaster in Minnesota. I worked in the Campus News department, winning several team and individual awards at the Midwest Journalism Conference before graduating in December 2024 with my bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Sports Communications. This landed me a job opportunity I had to make a decision on and pray about at great lengths.

The Bible mentions the Sabbath approximately 130 times based on translation and emphasizes the importance of the seventh day and resting from work obligations from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. The Sabbath is God's gift to man, and I feel it's essential to abide in it. This core value was put to the test with this job offer because the sports and broadcasting industries are not known for short hours or days off with high school sports on Friday night

and playoff volleyball and basketball on Saturdays. I had to work up the courage to explain to my potential future boss that having these times off was important enough to me that I would consider turning down an opportunity I'd been praying for since age 13.

God helped me approach the situation boldly and at peace, knowing He is working for my good as Romans 8:28 would say. I was granted my request and have been working full-time in the broadcasting industry for all of 9 months now and enjoying it to the fullest! This year I have the opportunity to broadcast many Park Christian games for YourLiveEvent, and it's been wonderful to return home to where it all began!

To find Park Christian games in our archives or our future schedule, go to YourLiveEvent.com or the [YourLiveEvent](https://YourLiveEvent.com) YouTube page!

God bless and I hope to see you all at Falcons games!



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PCS TRACK & FIELD CELEBRATES ITS FIRST-EVER STATE CHAMPION!

Park Christian School is thrilled to announce a historic achievement for our Track & Field program. **Annika Aakre, 12th grade**, captured the **Minnesota State High Jump Championship** with an outstanding jump of **5 feet, 7 inches**—becoming the **first-ever State Champion** in PCS Track & Field history!

THE PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL UNITED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Park Christian School United Scholarship Fund is a permanently restricted endowment that gives at least one 50% tuition grant each school year. We are so thankful to the donors who make this possible!

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For more information contact **Chris Neller** at Park Christian School
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